

Eastgate Veterinary Group

Environmental Sustainability Policy 2024

Eastgate Veterinary Group provides a Small Animal Veterinary service and comprises of 3 RCVS accredited sites in Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall and Thetford.

At Eastgate Veterinary Group we take pride in offering a compassionate, dedicated, and high-quality service to our clients. We acknowledge that our day-to-day operations have an impact on the environment and have identified the key aspects that contribute to our environmental and carbon footprint:

- Consumption of electricity, gas, and water
- Use of volatile anaesthetic gases contributing to greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste production and disposal
- Paper usage
- Transport of personnel and animals
- Medicines usage and disposal
- Procurement of goods and services contributing to emissions and pollution

Eastgate Veterinary Group is committed to enhancing our environmental performance through a journey of continual improvement by working through the Practice Standards Scheme. Our environmental commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below:

- Compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and societal expectations
- Engaging with colleagues and clients to encourage climate action and sustainable animal care
- Encourage colleagues to contribute environmental ideas/suggestions through discussions at team meetings
- Overall sustainability progress to be discussed at senior management meetings
- Minimising unsustainable transport use
- Practising responsible medicines usage and disposal
- Working with suppliers to ensure they acknowledge and decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation

Waste Reduction Plan

- Continue working with suppliers to re-cycle empty and unused toner cartridges
- Reduce the amount of paper printed by distributing newsletters, receipts and some invoices electronically
- All colleagues to add 'please consider the environment before printing this e-mail' in their signatures to encourage recipients to reduce the amount of paper printed
- Continue working with suppliers to recycle their cardboard packaging


- Increase the proportion of our waste that is recycled by using Terracycle boxes (Personal Protective Equipment and Medicine Blister Pack)
- Investigate reducing the use of disposable single use items and make changes where possible (e.g Kennel bedding)
- Auditing appliances throughout the surgery to establish which can be “turned off” or put into power saving modes to reduce energy use
- Reduce carbon emissions by attending CPD or multi surgery meetings virtually
- Avoid drug wastage through good stocking principles, rotating of new stock, checking reports before re-ordering items and sharing medications between our surgeries
- Encourage contractors to complete equipment servicing and repairs during the same visits
- Insert clear signage by all bins to highlight waste accepted (Recycling/hazardous waste/compost) and re-iterate waste segregation protocols in team meetings
- Investigate using products made with less raw materials, such as syringes made with less plastic and buster collars made from recycled materials

Eastgate Veterinary Group is part of the VetPartners family. VetPartners are passionate about encouraging sustainable veterinary care and reducing our impact on the environment. Our goals can be found in our [Sustainability Strategy](#) and include using renewable energy, diverting waste from landfill, undertaking charitable fundraising and ensuring a kind and inclusive workplace culture.

Eastgate Veterinary Group will continue to improve their environmental management system through annual reviews and updates, considering any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all colleagues ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

Elaine Evans is our Green Champion and has designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy. Please contact bury@eastgatevets.co.uk if you have any queries.

Eastgate Veterinary Group will make this policy available when requested to interested parties and members of the public. A copy of our Environmental Policy can also be found on our website.

Signed: 

Position: Receptionist

Date: 23rd December 2024

Next Review Date: December 2025